

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 01147 151054Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

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R 150945Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4518

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 1147

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NP

SUBJ: HMG LOWERS RETIREMENT AGE FOR CIVIL SERVICE

1. HVO MARCH 12 ANNOUNCED DECISION TO LOWER MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS FROM 63 TO 60. ACCORDING TO BEST ESTIMATES SOME 400-500 PERUONS WILL RESIGN ON OR BEFORE JULY 16 WHEN NEW ORDINANCE TAKES EFFECT.

2. COMMENT: SOURCES ATTRIBUTE NEW REGULATION DIRECTLY TO PRIME MINISTER GIRI WHO REMAINS CONCERNED THAT GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY IS NOT RESPONDING TO HIS CALL FOR AN END TGS"RED TAPISM AND CORRUPTION." ALTHOUGH 31 OF THE MORE OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE MORE BLATANT INSTANCES OF CORRUPTION WERE FIRED, GIRI HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN UNABLE TO MOVE OUT SOME 250-300 OTHERS. HEAD OF CIVIL SERVICE (AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO US) YADU NATH KHANAL IS SAID TO HAVE DUG IN HIS HEELS AND REFUSED TO TAKE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION WITHOUT SPECIFIC EVIDENCE OF CORRPUTION. IMPORTANCE OF LATEST ACTION WILL LIE IN ABILITY OF GIRI TO MOVE PEOPLE OF HIS CHOICE UP THE ADMINISTRATIVE LADDER WHEN 500 NEW POSITIONS, MANY OF THEM SENIOR, OPEN UP IN JULY. EAVES

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